

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
PROGRAMS, GRANTS & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

September 1, 2016
IAC Offices, 100 N. Senate Ave., Rm N505
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Al Rent, Chair

Members Present:

Members via Teleconference: Allen Platt, Jennifer Perry, Nancy Stewart, Ruth Ann Cowling

Members Absent: Al Rent, Micah Smith, Dusty Stermer

Arts Commission Staff Present: Bridget Eckert, Stephanie Pfendler, Miah Michaelson, Paige Sharp, Adrian Starnes, Anna Tragesser

- I. **Welcome and Introductions.** In Committee Chair Al Rent's absence, Commissioner Allen Platt, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- II. **Consent Agenda.** Because the Committee did not have a quorum present, they will reconvene prior to the September Commission meeting for approvals.
- III. **Capacity Building Program Update.** Director of Programs, Paige Sharp, noted that consultant Sara Peterson, who has also been facilitating the agency's strategic planning efforts, has also begun assisting with preliminary research into the annual statewide convening and what type of framework that might take for our State. The creative placemaking conference in partnership with IUPUI and SPEA is also taking shape. More news on how each initiative is progressing will be available to the Commission in December, once those frameworks are more clearly defined.
- IV. **Program Management/External Contracts. PACE, IAP, Poetry Out Loud.** Consultants have been contracted to provide continuity for programming in the wake of 2 frozen positions. While the Education and Accessibility Coordinator position has just been opened with applications being accepted, the IAC has contracted with Nathan Davis, adjunct professor at IU SPEA with a strong background in education and the arts, to assist with PACE programs. Ms. Sharp continued that Poetry Outloud will now be run by the Indiana State Library (ISL). While still managed by the Arts Commission to ensure NEA compliance, the ISL is a great fit as it will weave into the library's current programs and established network. Ms. Michaelson added that as an NEA funded program, many other State agencies subcontract out this program.
- V. **Arts in the Parks & Historic Sites Update.** With Application deadlines approaching (September 6 for organizations and September 13 for artists) it is estimated based on open applications and pending eligibility that granting will be far below what is allocated for this program. The option to open up another round of grants has been discussed, but due to park logistics and scheduling this does not seem feasible. Discussion followed on using surveys to determine why the response is not as anticipated. Commissioner Nancy Stewart felt that it would be appropriate considering the momentum the Commission felt for the program going forward. Ms. Sharp concurred that in light of the workshops, webinar and e-blasts used to garner support for and strengthen artist projects,

surveys would be important in understanding this year's numbers and to better serve the program going forward.

VI. Cultural District Update. Ms. Sharp reported that the notice of intent to apply for cultural district designation was due by August 31st with submissions received from Anderson, Jeffersonville, Noblesville, Valparaiso, Wabash and Zionsville. The final deadline for applications is October 4th. Applications will be paneled on October 27th and then brought to the full commission in December. Ms. Sharp noted that panelists have been assembled with contacts leveraged through relationships built with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Agency (IHCDA) and The Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). She is looking forward to the opportunity to bring them into our framework and rigorous paneling process.

A. Annual Report Assessment. Cultural districts representatives will be meeting September 29th in Columbus, IN to discuss data from the annual reports and the process in general. Taking a cue from the outcomes session with David O'Fallon, a logic model to change our thought processes on the annual report and make a case to support the frame work was developed. The meeting will focus discussion on what is working so far and look to funding/programs to address needs. Anna Tragesser presented a summary of the Indiana cultural district program annual reports from 2010 – 2015 (attached) which will be used to spring board those conversations. District perspectives on accomplishments, challenges, and artist involvement, as well as, budgetary expenditure proportions, and types of assets and ratios for each individual district are delineated. The current annual report is focused on informatics and compliancy. Ms. Sharp concluded that through district input we want to now focus on impact, successes of each cultural district and how reporting can be meaningfully effectual.

VII. Strategic Planning Update. Ms. Michaelson presented the strategic framework that has emerged from the strategic planning process (attached). This proposed theory of change, centered on the big idea, articulates the resultant impacts for “society, community, and our everyday lives” when the arts are centrally positioned. She further noted that after this framework is brought to the Commission meeting in September for input it will then go to the final meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee in October where the actual activities and processes that will achieve these proposed impacts will be defined. David O'Fallon will be further consulted on assessments and evaluations. Ms. Stewart commended Ms. Michaelson on the work she put in to collating all of the information into such a concise and meaningful document.

VIII. Lay of the Land. Ms. Michaelson presented a document (attached) which delineates changes to regional allocations pursuant to Lay of the Land study group recommendations. New items and significant changes were highlighted. Notably the establishment of a funding imperative, which clearly states what the IAC believes the roll and function of public funding to be. Within this and further strengthened in the guidelines and newly weighted scoring criteria for grantees is the component of community engagement. The roll of community engagement has always had a roll in the IAC's guidelines and scoring criteria, but has been significantly strengthened in guideline language and expectations of grantees. Terminology has been introduced to define it as a relationship with their particular community. Further discussed was the option for regional partners to remove the funding floor for AOSI eligibility dependent upon each region's unique needs. For AOSIII organizations, demonstrating multiregional services has also been further defined. Discussion continued on the introduction of the “cinnamon roll” model for APS funding and the possibility of funding AOS II and III organizations every 4 instead of 2 years. Discussion on advantages and disadvantages of these changes followed. The Committee approved the guidelines in concept. Because the Committee did not have a quorum present, recommendations will be

officially approved when the Committee is reconvened prior to the meeting of the full commission on September 30th.

- IX. New Online System Update.** Adrian Starnes, Grants, Research and Information Technology Manager, apprised the Committee that Arts in the Parks applications are up and running in the new online system, along with the Cultural Districts letter of intent. He noted that Foundant has provided great support through this nascent period with frequent training calls that are very responsive to the Agency's needs. New features include a dashboard for applicants and grantees that shows the entirety of their grant history, customized access for the regional partners, and streamlined evaluation processes for panelists which include the ability to score applications electronically.
- X. Studies.**
- A. **Economic Review Update.** Brianca Merritt with the IU Public Policy Institute is near the end of collating and benchmarking against national data. Ms. Merritt will be buttoning up those findings and once that information is sent to IAC staff it will be processed to be shared with the Commission.
- B. **FY16 Regional Initiative Grant Overview.** Bridget Eckert, Communications & Community Engagement Manager, presented a handout (attached) which illustrates, by region, where IAC funded services are occurring based on data gleaned from FY16 RIG final reports. Each region is broken down by county into population, average income, grants awarded and activities that occurred. This study shows how important the final grant reports are and the type of data that can be leveraged. Ms. Michaelsen lauded Ms. Eckert and Ms. Tragesser for their work. She further noted that this information has been used in our budget request to talk about impact in rural and low income communities and points to the productive conversations we can further engage as we advance projects.
- XI. Partnerships.** Ms. Michaelsen reported on preliminary conversations taking place with IHCD and Big Car Collaborative on a pilot project to create artist centers and housing opportunities in rural communities. State partners that are reaching out to us and want to leverage the arts to bring vitality to the State was also noted in our participation in the Stellar Communities, which saw Corydon and Rushville picked as this year's communities.
- XII. Old Business.** None.
- XIII. New Business.** None.
- XIV. Adjourn.** Mr. Platt adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.